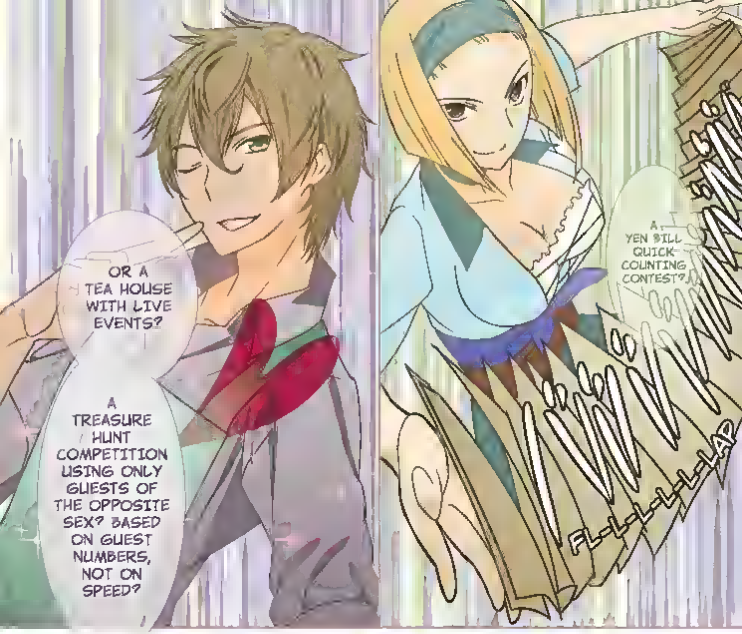
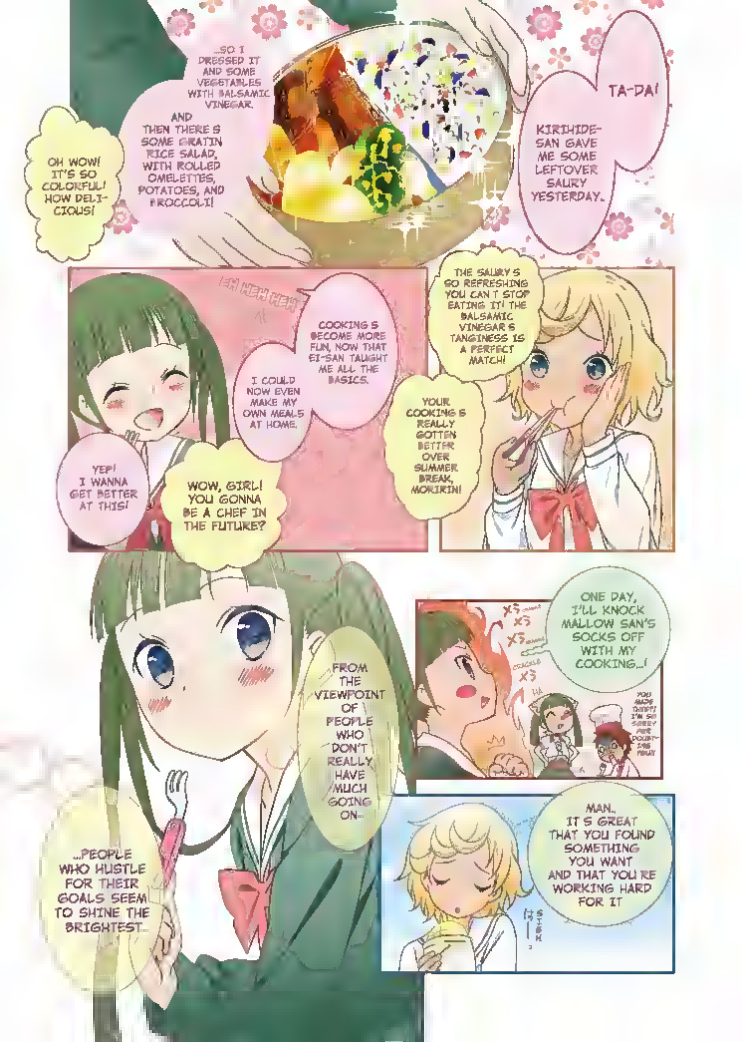
44 BRUSCHETTA ~ITALIAN GARLIC TOAST~

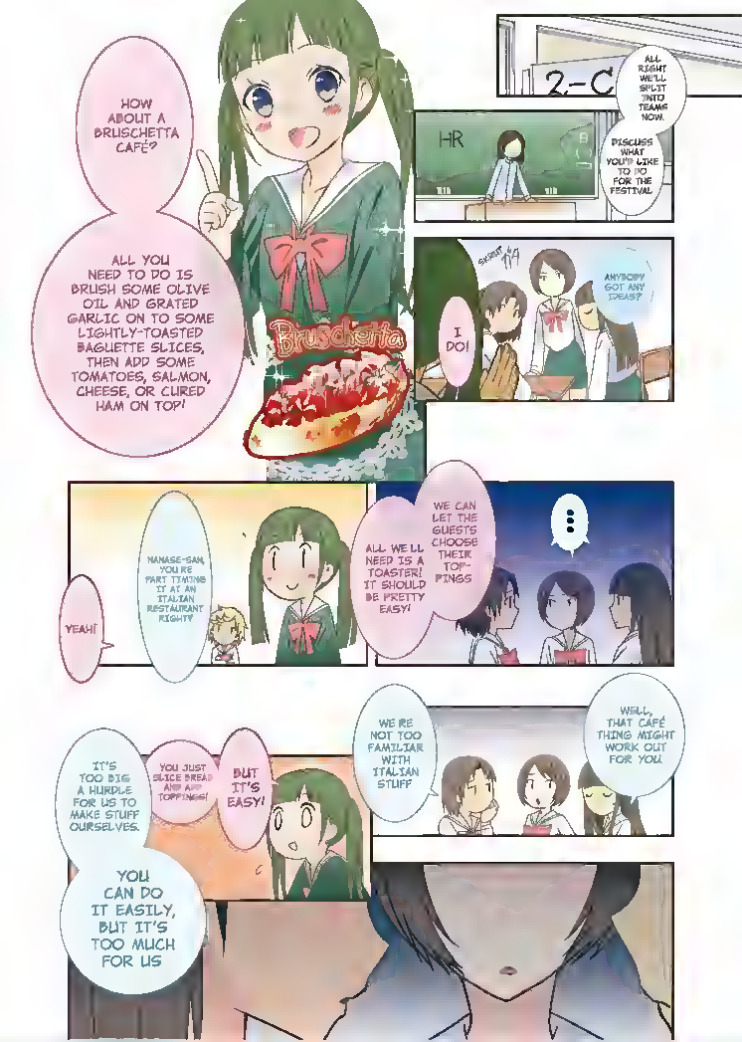
THERE'S A CULTURE FESTIVAL AT MY HIGH SCHOOL NEXT MONTH!
52ND MATSURIZAKA HIGH SCHOOL CULTURE FESTIVAL
DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY IDEAS TO PUT INTO OUR PROGRAM CATALOG?

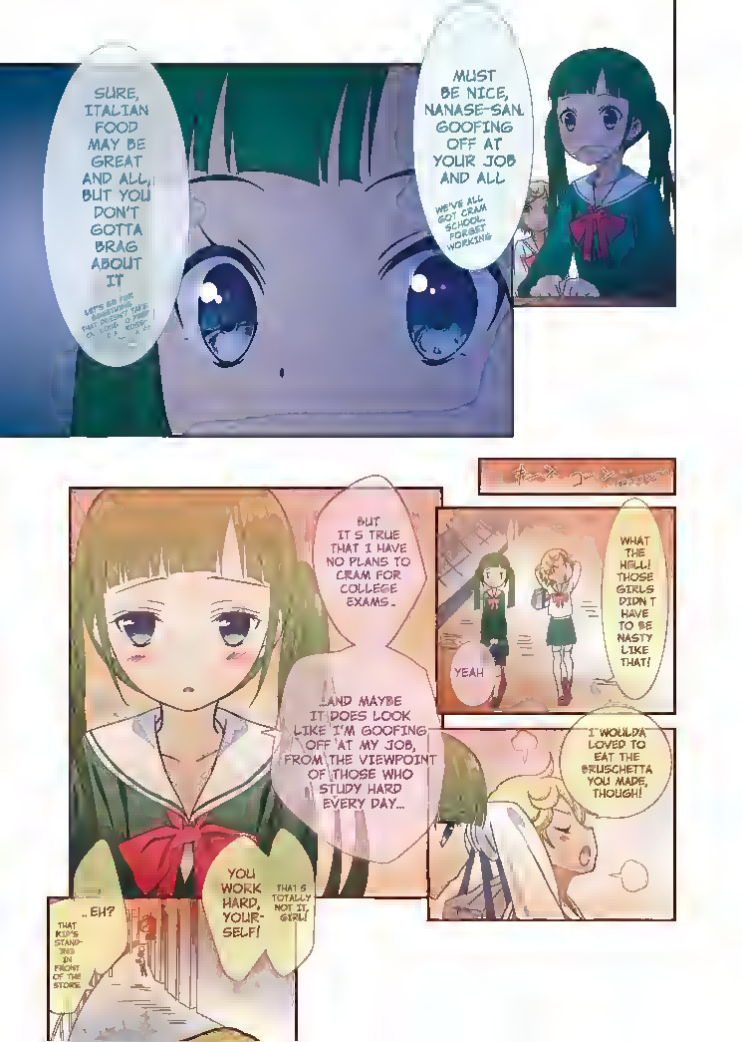
DO YOU WANT MERCHANDISE, FLYERS, OR ENLISTMENT?
WHAT'S A CULTURE FESTIVAL? SOME SPORTS THING?
AHH, THE JOYS OF YOUTH.
CULTURE FEST? VAL?


OR A TEA HOUSE WITH LIVE EVENTS?
A TREASURE HUNT COMPETITION USING ONLY GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX? BASED ON GUEST NUMBERS, NOT ON SPEED?
A YEN BILL QUICK-COUNTING CONTEST?
FLLLLLLLAP

YOU MEAN CULTURE FESTIVALS ARE ONE-SHOT TALENT SHOWS?
UMM... NO ONE AT THE SCHOOL CAN PULL THOSE OFF
MORIRIN! WHAT'S YOUR LUNCH TODAY?
WELL...


...SO I DRESSED IT AND SOME VEGETABLES WITH BALSAMIC VINEGAR.
AND THEN THERE'S SOME GRATIN RICE SALAD, WITH ROLLED OMELETTES, POTATOES, AND BROCCOLI!
OH WOW! IT'S SO COLORFUL! HOW DELI-CIOUS!
TA-DA!
KIRIHIDE-SAN GAVE ME SOME LEFTOVER SAURY YESTERDAY.
HEH HEH HEH
COOKING'S BECOME MORE FUN, NOW THAT EI-SAN TAUGHT ME ALL THE BASICS.
I COULD NOW EVEN MAKE MY OWN MEALS AT HOME.
YEP! I WANNA GET BETTER AT THIS!
WOW, GIRL! YOU GONNA BE A CHEF IN THE FUTURE?
THE SAURY'S SO REFRESHING YOU CAN'T STOP EATING IT! THE BALSAMIC VINEGAR'S TANGINESS IS A PERFECT MATCH!
YOUR COOKING'S REALLY GOTTEN BETTER OVER SUMMER BREAK, MORIKIN!
ONE DAY, I'LL KNOCK MALLOW SAN'S SOCKS OFF WITH MY COOKING...!
X5 CRUNCH
X3
X5 MUNCH
CRACKLE
X3
YOU MADE TODAY? I'M SO SORRY FOR DOUBTING YOU FOR A MINUTE
FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH GOING ON--
...PEOPLE WHO HUSTLE FOR THEIR GOALS SEEM TO SHINE THE BRIGHTEST.
MAN. IT'S GREAT THAT YOU FOUND SOMETHING YOU WANT AND THAT YOU'RE WORKING HARD FOR IT
SIGH

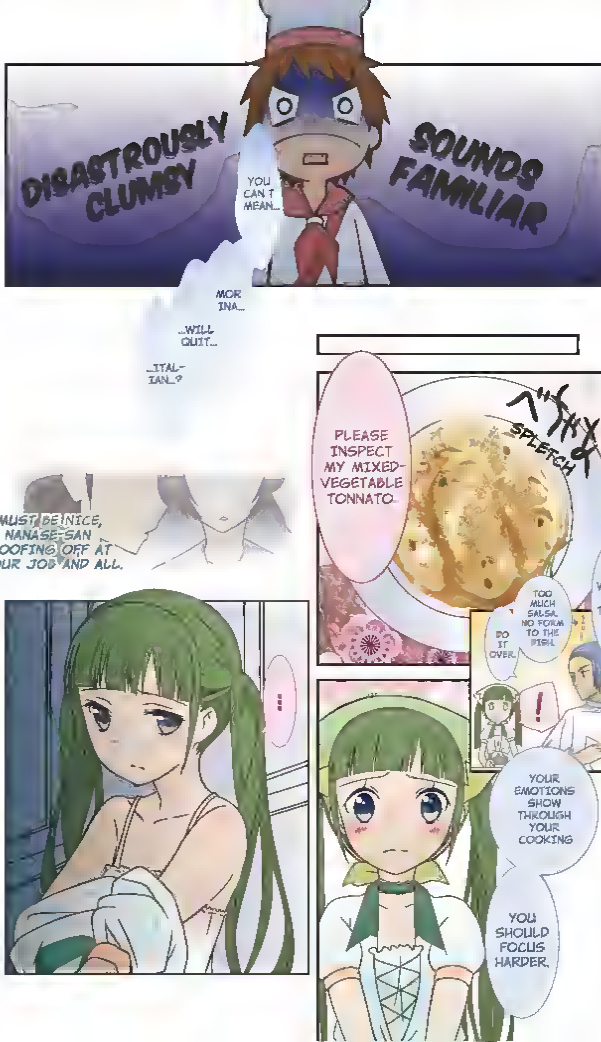

2-C
ALL RIGHT WE'LL SPLIT INTO TEAMS NOW.
HR
DISCUSS WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO FOR THE FESTIVAL
SUGGEST #1
ANYBODY GOT ANY IDEAS?
I DO!
HOW ABOUT A BRUSCHETTA CAFÉ?
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS BRUSH SOME OLIVE OIL AND GRATED GARLIC ON TO SOME LIGHTLY-TOASTED BAGUETTE SLICES, THEN ADD SOME TOMATOES, SALMON, CHEESE, OR CURED HAM ON TOP!
Bruschetta
WE CAN LET THE GUESTS CHOOSE THEIR TOPPINGS
ALL WE'LL NEED IS A TOASTER! IT SHOULD BE PRETTY EASY!
HANASE-SAN, YOU'RE PART TIMING IT AT AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT RIGHT?
YEAH!
WELL, THAT CAFÉ THING MIGHT WORK OUT FOR YOU.
WE'RE NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH ITALIAN STUFF
BUT IT'S EASY!
YOU JUST SLICE BREAD AND ADD TOPPINGS!
IT'S TOO BIG A HURDLE FOR US TO MAKE STUFF OURSELVES.
YOU CAN DO IT EASILY, BUT IT'S TOO MUCH FOR US


SURE, ITALIAN FOOD MAY BE GREAT AND ALL, BUT YOU DON'T GOTTA BRAG ABOUT IT
LET'S BE FOR REAL, SHOPKEEP! TAKE THAT ATTITUDE TO THEM OLD LADIES AT THE CHURCH!
MUST BE NICE, NANASE-SAN. GOOFING OFF AT YOUR JOB AND ALL
WE'VE ALL GOT CRAM SCHOOL FORGET WORKING
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT I HAVE NO PLANS TO CRAM FOR COLLEGE EXAMS..
..AND MAYBE IT DOES LOOK LIKE I'M GOOFING OFF AT MY JOB, FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THOSE WHO STUDY HARD EVERY DAY...
YOU WORK HARD, YOURSELF!
THAT'S TOTALLY NOT IT, GIRL!
..EH?
THAT KID'S STANDING IN FRONT OF THE STORE.
WHAT THE HELL! THOSE GIRLS DIDN'T HAVE TO BE NASTY LIKE THAT!
YEAH
I WOULDA LOVED TO EAT THE BRUSCHETTA YOU MADE, THOUGH!

RAW PASTA BRIDGE!
MALLOW-SAN!
MORINA!
CHECK OUT MY ONE-SHOT TALENT!
ONE SHOT TALENT?
THIS SHOULD KNOCK THE FESTIVAL OUTTA THE PARK!
WE CAN BOIL THE PASTA AND SERVE IT WITH SAUCE AFTERWARDS!
PLEASE DON'T PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD
IF YOU MAKE SOME REAL ITALIAN FOOD, YOU'LL BE THE TALK OF THE TOWN!
UH OH
I'M SORRY, MALLOW-SAN!
DASH
NO, NO...
...BUT THE TIMING COULDN'T BE WORSE.
DID I SAY SOMETHING BAD?
MORINA...?

45. TONNATO ~TUNA SAUCE~

DOWN, BOY...
I'LL TELL 'EM RIGHT—
THOSE CLASSMATES KNOW NOTHING!
GRAB
WHAT THE HELL?!
MORINA'S BUSTING HER CHOPS TO BECOME A CHEF!
SLAM
MORIRIN'S HAD THE TENDENCY TO START A LOT OF DIFFERENT HOBBIES...
...BUT SHE'S DISASTROUSLY CLUMSY SO NONE OF THOSE HOBBIES LAST LONG.
SO I'M MORE WORRIED THAT SHE MIGHT BREAK DOWN BECAUSE OF WHAT THOSE GIRLS SAID TO HER
SHE'S NOT EXACTLY A NOT-DISCOURAGED CHARACTER, EITHER...
THOSE GIRLS? THEIR MOTHERS ARE PRETTY INFAMOUS FOR BEING OBSESSED WITH GRADES.
THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MORIRIN'S FAM, SO THERE'S REALLY NOTHING WE CAN DO I THINK.
STILL, THOUGH! THAT'S NOT ENOUGH!
Y'KNOW...


DISASTROUSLY CLUMSY
SOUNDS FAMILIAR
YOU CAN'T MEAN...
MOR INA...
..WILL QUIT...
..ITAL-IAN..?
PLEASE INSPECT MY MIXED-VEGETABLE TONNATO.
ヘナヘナ
SPLETCH
WHAT IS THIS?
TOO MUCH SALSA. NO FORM TO THE PIECE.
DO IT OVER.
!
YOUR EMOTIONS SHOW THROUGH YOUR COOKING
YOU SHOULD FOCUS HARDER.
MUST BE NICE, NANASE-SAN GOOFING OFF AT YOUR JOB AND ALL.
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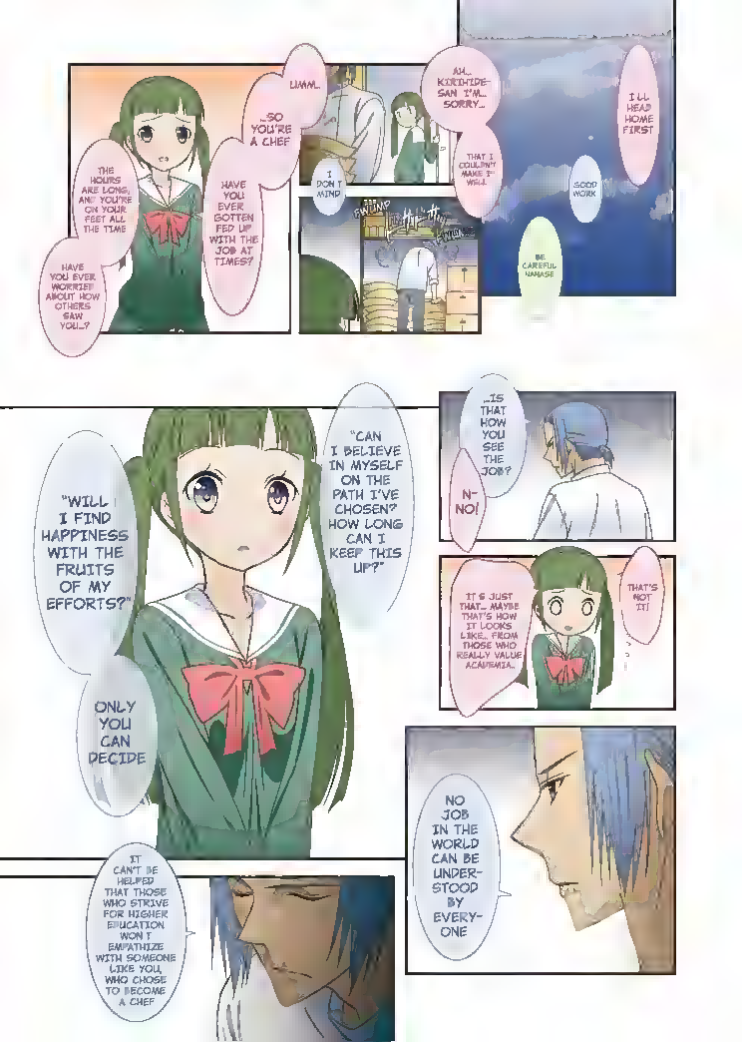
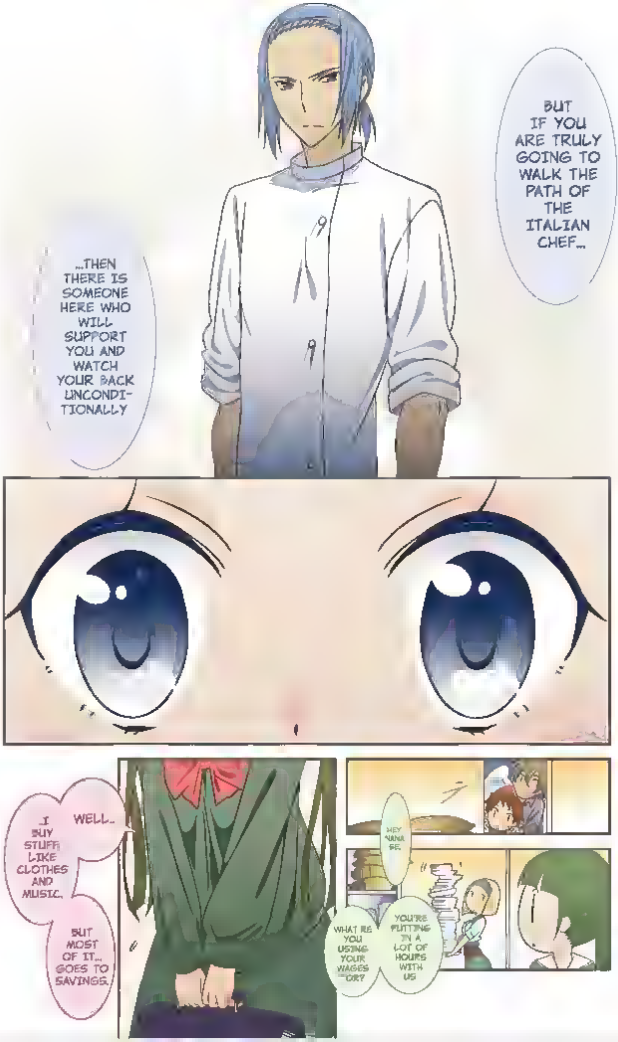
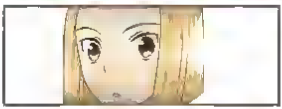
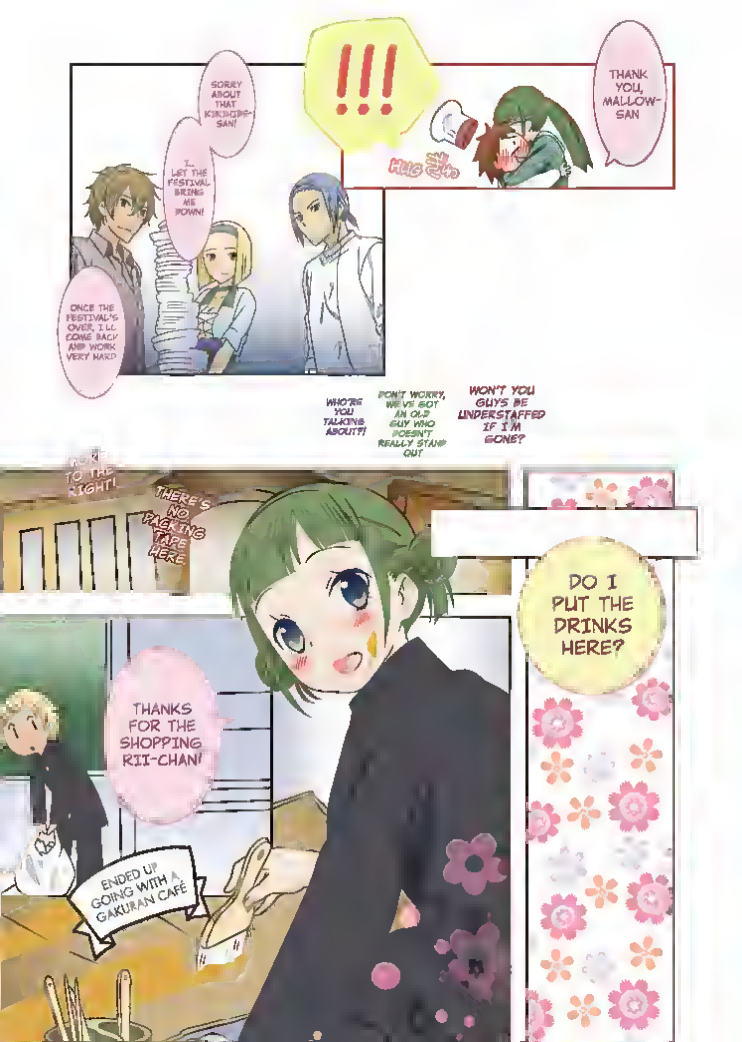

I'LL HEAD HOME FIRST
GOOD WORK
BE CAREFUL, YAMADA
AH... KUROIWA-SAN! I'M... SORRY...
I DON'T MIND.
THAT I COULDN'T MAKE IT WELL
...SO YOU'RE A CHEF
HMM...
HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN FED UP WITH THE JOB AT TIMES?
THE HOURS ARE LONG, AND YOU'RE ON YOUR FEET ALL THE TIME
HAVE YOU EVER WORRIED ABOUT HOW OTHERS SAW YOU...?
...IS THAT HOW YOU SEE THE JOB?
N-NO!
IT'S JUST THAT... MAYBE THAT'S HOW IT LOOKS LIKE... FROM THOSE WHO REALLY VALUE ACADEMIA.
THAT'S NOT IT!
"CAN I BELIEVE IN MYSELF ON THE PATH I'VE CHOSEN? HOW LONG CAN I KEEP THIS UP?"
"WILL I FIND HAPPINESS WITH THE FRUITS OF MY EFFORTS?"
ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE
NO JOB IN THE WORLD CAN BE UNDER-STOOD BY EVERY-ONE
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT THOSE WHO STRIVE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION WON'T EMPATHIZE WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO CHOSE TO BECOME A CHEF


BUT IF YOU ARE TRULY GOING TO WALK THE PATH OF THE ITALIAN CHEF...
...THEN THERE IS SOMEONE HERE WHO WILL SUPPORT YOU AND WATCH YOUR BACK UNCONDITIONALLY
HEY NANA SE.
YOU'RE PUTTING IN A LOT OF HOURS WITH US
WHAT RE YOU USING YOUR WAGES FOR?
WELL..
I BUY STUFF LIKE CLOTHES AND MUSIC.
BUT MOST OF IT... GOES TO SAVINGS.

BECAUSE... I'D LIKE TO GO TO ITALY ONE DAY.
WITH... MALLOW-SAN
YEAH...



CLOMP
MORIN AAAAA!
WAAH! MALLOW SAN!
HOW LONG WERE YOU THERE?
WE'RE GOOD, OKAY?
FESTA WON'T SHUT DOWN OR ANY-THING!
I'M NOT GONNA DIS-APPEAR, EITHER!
SO TAKE SOME DAYS OFF FROM THIS JOB, IF THINGS GET BUSY WITH THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
WE'LL ALWAYS BE WAITING FOR YOU!


!!!
HUG
THANK YOU, MALLOW-SAN
SORRY ABOUT THAT KIRIHIME-SAN!
I LET THE FESTIVAL BRING ME DOWN!
ONCE THE FESTIVAL'S OVER, I'LL COME BACK AND WORK VERY HARD
WHO'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT??
DON'T WORRY, WE'VE GOT AN OLD GUY WHO DOESN'T REALLY STAND OUT
WON'T YOU GUYS BE UNDERSTAFFED IF I'M GONE?
TO THE RIGHT!
THERE'S NO PACKING TAPE HERE
DO I PUT THE DRINKS HERE?
THANKS FOR THE SHOPPING RII-CHAN!
ENDED UP GOING WITH A GAKURAN CAFÉ

I'VE GOT THIS!
DON'T STUDY TOO HARD, OR YOU'LL ALL CATCH A COLD!
WE'VE GOT CRAM SCHOOL, SO!
HEY NANASE-SAN, PAINT THESE UP FOR US
PAINT PAINT PAINT
THAT'S OKAY!
WHOA, HEY! HOLD ON A SEC!
OUR PATHS MAY BE DIFFERENT...
...AND WE MAY NOT UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER...
...THANKS.
WE'LL MAKE THE RING ROPE AS SOON AS WE'RE HOME FROM CRAM SCHOOL.
...BUT WE'RE ALL DOING OUR BEST ON THE ROADS WE'RE ON.
THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.